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U K R A I N E

Investment Forum for Ukraine's Economic Growth

USAID Deputy Mission Director Peter Argo announced that the Mission would launch a new Trade, Investment and Business Acceleration Project in the fall. Argo made his remarks on August 23 during the Energy for Growth Investment Forum in Kyiv, held within the framework of the Barvysta Ukraina National Exposition.



Peter Argo (right) and Kevin Sharp (left) touring the National Exposition

"The goal of the project is to support Ukraine in its efforts to integrate into the global economy by increasing trade and investment," explained the deputy mission director during opening remarks.

The Energy for Growth Investment Forum was jointly organized by USAID's BIZPRO project and the National Exhibition Center of Ukraine as a vehicle by which potential investors, foreign and domestic, could develop contacts for investment in Ukraine, and consider more than 500 investment proposals that organizers had received in the months before the convention.

The Forum was held within the framework of the Barvysta Ukraina National Exposition, and held under the patronage of the President of Ukraine as

part of 15th Anniversary Independence Day celebrations.

MTV Show Supports USAID Anti-Trafficking Effort

USAID Mission Director Earl Gast took part in a press conference in support of an MTV-sponsored Concert on September 2 to raise awareness about trafficking in humans. The MTV show, which supports the International Organization on Migration's (IOM) international anti-trafficking effort, was part of an eight-city European tour that included Sofia, Bulgaria, and St. Petersburg, Russia. The show in Kyiv included local Ukrainian musical acts Gaitana and SKYY and international acts, including Stereo MC. USAID supports IOM's anti-trafficking project in Ukraine.



Earl Gast at the press conference

During the press conference, which took place prior to the concert, Mr. Gast noted that one of the best ways to avoid becoming a victim of trafficking is to educate oneself on the subject.

International *Doing Business* Survey Conducted in Ukraine with BIZPRO Assistance

USAID's Bizpro project helped to conduct the first sub-national *Doing Business* Survey in Ukraine. The effort is part of the prestigious *Doing Business*

survey of 155 countries that the World Bank does annually. From June to August, Bizpro organized surveys of government and business leaders in the effort to develop data on the state of doing business in Ukraine.

The Doing Business sub-national survey will include all of the country's regions. The investment climates of each oblast, the Autonomous Region of Crimea and the city of Kyiv will be appraised and compared. The collaboration between USAID and the World Bank will culminate in a December 2006 international conference bringing together representatives of Ukraine's public and private sector and leading international experts.

The Successful Communities Institute Summer Advocacy School for Ukrainian Experts a Success

USAID's Ukraine Citizen Action Network (UCAN) project held a summer advocacy school for Ukrainian civil society experts during the first week of August. UCAN's Successful Communities Institute organized the four-day seminar, which was attended by 17 Ukrainian specialists with practical experience in running advocacy campaigns in different regions of the country.

The summer school's overarching theme was, "The Fight Against Corruption," and included a variety of speakers, such as Mykola Melnyk JD, a specialist on corruption in government; Valeria Lutkovska, who previously represented Ukraine in the European Court of Human Rights; and investigative journalist Volodymyr Aryev of Channel Five's Restricted Area TV program.



Volodymyr Aryev presents at the Summer Advocacy School

USAID Mission Director Earl Gast visited the school on its final day, and led a discussion on the state of and prospects for civil society development in

Ukraine; the priorities and types of US government technical assistance to Ukraine; and prospects for cooperation among Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Moldovan NGOs.

DOCs Hold Quarterly Meeting with Communications Specialists

USAID's Development Outreach and Communications team held its quarterly meeting with its implementing partners' communications specialists on September 5. The group discussed a variety of ongoing challenges, including ways to improve press releases and talking points. USAID's DOC section has held similar meetings on a regular basis since 2004 in an effort to improve the quality of partners' communications materials and instruments, and to increase interaction between the mission and its partners.



Partners' meeting of communications specialists offers a good opportunity to ask questions of USAID DOC officers

Upcoming Events

September 11-12, Maternal and Infant Health Project, National Dissemination Conference, Kyiv.

September 14-15, Ukraine Reform Education Program, International Conference "Development of Wholesale Agricultural Markets," Lviv.

September 18-22, Mitigating the Impact of those Affected by HIV/AIDS Project, Skill Based Clinical Trainings, Odessa, South Ukrainian AIDS Education Center.

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